

## REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Preliminary Amendment-A the claims in the application are claims 1-13, of which claims 1 and 8 are independent.

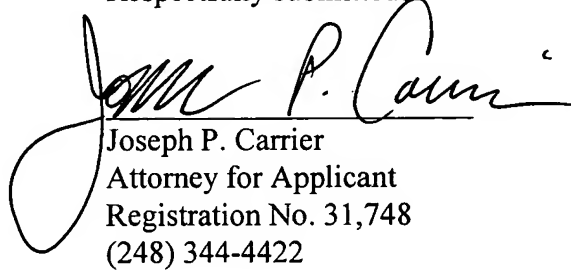
The specification ,claims and abstract have been amended to overcome minor informalities therein, to be more consistent throughout. Claim 8 is rewritten in independent form, while new claims 9-13 present additional aspects of the invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original application. Applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter into the application.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

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## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail Certificate No. ET986050071US in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 18, 2003.

